

2 Maccabees 4



1611 King James Version

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Also read 2 Maccabees in the
1535 Coverdale, 1537
Matthew's, 1539 Taverner's,
1540 Great Bible, 1560
Geneva, 1568 Bishop's, and the
1382 Wycliffe (handwritten in Middle
English) Bible versions.

2 MACCABEES 4

4: 1 This Simon
now, of whom
we spake
afore, having
been a
betraye of the

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**money, and of
his country,
slandered
Onias, as if he
had terrified
Heliodorus,
and been the
worker of
these evils.**

**4:2 Thus was he
bold to call**

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him a traitor,
that had
deserved well
of the city, and
tendered his
own nation,
and was so
zealous of
the laws.

4:3 But when
their hatred

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went so far,
that by one
of Simon's
faction
murders were
committed,
4:4 Onias
seeing the
danger of this
contention,
and that

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**Apollonius, as
being the
governor of
Celosyria and
Phenice, did
rage, and
increase
Simon's
malice,**

**4:5 He went to
the king, not**

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**to be an
accuser of his
countrymen,
but seeking
the good of all,
both publick
and private:**

**4:6 For he saw
that it was
impossible
that the state**

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**should
continue quiet,
and Simon
leave his folly,
unless the
king did look
thereunto.**

**4:7 But after
the death of
Seleucus,
when**

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**Antiochus,
called
Epiphanes,
took the
kingdom,
Jason the
brother of
Onias
laboured
underhand to
be high priest,**

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**4=8 Promising
unto the king
by
intercession
three hundred
and threescore
talents of
silver, and of
another
revenue eighty
talents:**

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4:9 Beside this,
he promised to
assign an
hundred and
fifty more, if he
might have
licence to set
him up a place
for exercise,
and for the
training up of

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youth in the
fashions of the
heathen, and
to write them
of Jerusalem
by the name of
Antiochians.

4: 10 Which
when the king
had granted,
and he had

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**gotten into his
hand the rule
he forthwith
brought his
own nation to
Greekish
fashion.**

**4: 11 And the
royal
privileges
granted of**

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**special favour
to the Jews by
the means
of John the
father of
Eupolemus,
who went
ambassador
to Rome for
amity and aid,
he took away;**

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**and putting
down the
governments
which were
according to
the law, he
brought up
new customs
against the
law:**

4=12 For he built

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**gladly a place
of exercise
under the
tower itself,
and brought
the chief
young men
under his
subjection,
and made
them wear a**

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hat.

4:13 Now such
was the height
of Greek
fashions, and
increase of
heathenish
manners,
through the
exceeding
profaneness of

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**Jason, that
ungodly
wretch, and no
high priest;**

**4: 14 That the
priests had no
courage to
serve any
more at the
altar, but
despising the**

2 MACCABEES 4

**temple, and
neglecting the
sacrifices,
hastened to be
partakers of
the unlawful
allowance in
the place of
exercise, after
the game of**

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**Discus called
them forth;
4:15 Not setting
by the
honours of
their fathers,
but liking the
glory of the
Grecians best
of all.**

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4:16 By reason
whereof sore
calamity came
upon them: for
they had them
to be their
enemies and
avengers,
whose custom
they followed
so earnestly,

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**and unto
whom they
desired to be
like in all
things.**

4: 17 For it is not
a light thing to
do wickedly
against the
laws of God:
but the time

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**following shall
declare these
things.**

4:18 Now when
the game that
was used
every faith
year was kept
at Tyrus, the
king being
present,

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4:19 This
ungracious
Jason sent
special
messengers
from
Jerusalem,
who were
Antiochians,
to carry three
hundred

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**drachms of
silver to the
sacrifice of
Hercules,
which even
the bearers
thereof
thought fit not
to bestow
upon the
sacrifice,**

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**because it
was not
convenient,
but to be
reserved for
other charges.**

**4:20 This money
then, in regard
of the sender,
was appointed
to Hercules'**

2 MACCABEES 4

**sacrifice; but
because of the
bearers
thereof, it was
employed to
the making of
gallies.**

4:21 Now when
Apollonius the
son of
Menestheus

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**was sent into
Egypt for the
coronation of
king
Ptolemeus
Philometor,
Antiochus,
understanding
him not to be
well affected
to his affairs,**

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**provided for
his own
safety:
whereupon he
came to
Joppa, and
from thence to
Jerusalem:
4:22 Where he
was
honourably**

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**received of
Jason, and of
the city, and
was brought in
with torch
alight, and
with great
shoutings: and
so afterward
went with his
host unto**

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Phenice.

4:23 Three

years

afterward

Jason sent

Menelaus, the

aforesaid

Simon's

brother, to

bear the

money unto

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**the king, and
to put him in
mind of certain
necessary
matters.**

**4:24 But he
being brought
to the
presence of
the king, when
he had**

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**magnified him
for the
glorious
appearance of
his power, got
the priesthood
to himself,
offering more
than Jason by
three hundred**

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**talents of
silver.**

**4:25 So he came
with the king's
mandate,
bringing
nothing
worthy the
high
priesthood,
but having the**

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**fury of a cruel
tyrant, and the
rage of a
savage beast.**

**4:26 Then
Jason, who
had
undermined
his own
brother, being
undermined by**

2 MACCABEES 4

**another, was
compelled to
flee into the
country of the
Ammonites.**

**4:27 So
Menelaus got
the
principality:
but as for the
money that he**

2 MACCABEES 4

**had promised
unto the king,
he took no
good order for
it, albeit
Sostratis the
ruler of the
castle required
it:**

**4:28 For unto
him**

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**appertained
the gathering
of the
customs.**

**Wherefore
they were both
called before
the king.**

**4:29 Now
Menelaus left
his brother**

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**Lysimachus in
his stead in
the
priesthood;
and Sostratus
left Crates,
who was
governor of
the Cyprians.**

**4:30 While
those things**

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**were in doing,
they of Tarsus
and Mallos
made
insurrection,
because they
were given to
the king's
concubine,
called
Antiochus.**

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4:31 Then came
the king in all
haste to
appease
matters,
leaving
Andronicus,
a man in
authority, for
his deputy.

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4:32 Now

**Menelaus,
supposing that
he had gotten
a convenient
time, stole
certain
vessels of
gold out of the
temple, and
gave some of**

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**them to
Andronicus,
and some he
sold into Tyrus
and the cities
round about.**

**4:33 Which
when Onias
knew of a
surety, he
reproved him,**

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**and withdrew
himself into a
sanctuary at
Daphne, that
lieth by
Antiochia.**

**4:34 Wherefore
Menelaus,
taking
Andronicus
apart, prayed,**

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him to get
Onias into his
hands; who
being
persuaded
thereunto, and
coming to
Onias in
deceit, gave
him his right
hand with

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**oaths; and
though he
were
suspected by
him, yet
persuaded he
him to come
forth of the
sanctuary:
whom
forthwith he**

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**shut up
without regard
of justice.**

**4:35 For the
which cause
not only the
Jews, but
many also of
other nations,
took great
indignation,**

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**and were
much grieved
for the unjust
murder of the
man.**

**4:36 And when
the king was
come again
from the
places about
Cilicia, the**

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**Jews that were
in the city, and
certain of the
Greeks that
abhorred the
fact also,
complained
because Onias
was slain
without cause.**

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4:37 Therefore
Antiochus was
heartily sorry,
and moved to
pity, and wept,
because of the
sober and
modest
behaviour of
him that was
dead.

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4:38 And being
kindled with
anger,
forthwith he
took away
Andronicus
his purple, and
rent off his
clothes, and
leading him
through the

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**whole city
unto that very
place, where
he had
committed
impiety
against Onias,
there slew he
the cursed
murderer.**

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**Thus the Lord
rewarded
him his
punishment,
as he had
deserved.**

**4:39 Now when
many
sacrileges had
been
committed in**

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**the city by
Lysimachus
with the
consent of
Menelaus, and
the fruit
thereof was
spread abroad,
the multitude
gathered
themselves**

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**together
against
Lysimachus,
many vessels
of gold being
already carried
away.**

**4:40 Whereupon
the common
people rising,
and being**

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**filled with
rage,
Lysimachus
armed about
three
thousand men,
and began first
to offer
violence; one
Auranus being
the leader, a**

2 MACCABEES 4

**man far gone
in years, and
no less in
folly.**

4:41 **They then
seeing the
attempt of
Lysimachus,
some of them
caught stones,
some clubs,**

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**others taking
handfuls of
dust, that was
next at hand,
cast them all
together upon
Lysimachus,
and those that
set upon them.**

**4:42 Thus many
of them they**

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**wounded, and
some they
struck to the
ground, and all
of them they
forced to flee:
but as for the
churchrobber
himself, him
they killed**

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**beside the
treasury.**

**4:43 Of these
matters
therefore there
was an
accusation
laid against
Menelaus.**

**4:44 Now when
the king came**

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**to Tyrus, three
men that were
sent from the
senate
pleaded the
cause before
him:**

**4:45 But
Menelaus,
being now
convicted,**

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**promised
Ptolemee the
son of
Dorymenes to
give him much
money, if he
would pacify
the king
toward him.**

**4:46 whereupon
Ptolemee**

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taking the king
aside into a
certain gallery,
as it were to
take the air,
brought him to
be of another
mind:

4:47 Insomuch
that he

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**discharged
Menelaus
from the
accusations,
who
notwithstanding
was cause of
all the
mischief: and
those poor
men, who, if**

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they had told
their cause,
yea, before the
Scythians,
should have
been judged
innocent, them
he condemned
to death.

4:48 Thus they
that followed

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**the matter for
the city, and
for the people,
and for the
holy vessels,
did soon
suffer unjust
punishment.**

**4:49 Wherefore
even they of
Tyrus, moved**

2 MACCABEES 4

**with hatred of
that wicked
deed, caused
them to be
honourably
buried.**

**4:50 And so
through the
covetousness
of them that
were of power**

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**Menelaus
remained still
in authority,
increasing in
malice, and
being a great
traitor to the
citizens.**

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